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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1639
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000663

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DEPT FOR NEA/ARP

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TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [KU](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: LEBANON: KUWAIT RESPONSE ON JUNE 23
RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 60216

Classified By: Ambassador Deborah K. Jones for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) In response to reftel request seeking host country support for the June 23 reconstruction conference on Lebanon's Nahr Al-Barid refugee camp, Econcouns spoke with Ambassador Jassim Al-Mubarak, MFA Director of Arab Affairs, on June 5. Al-Mubarak said he had just met with the Lebanese CDA and Austrian Ambassador to discuss the event. He said Kuwait would "definitely" participate in the conference with a "high-ranking official," but he could not confirm the official or the amount of Kuwait's contribution at the present time.

¶2. (C) Al-Mubarak continued that the only "reservation" the GOK had about the proposed conference was that participants and the international community not consider it a "solution" to the refugee problem. The solution to the refugee problem in Nahr Al-Barid and elsewhere, Al-Mubarak stated, was a return to a homeland along the lines of President Bush's two-state solution for Palestinians and Israelis. Thus the conference needed to stress the need for progress on Middle East peace as the best means toward ending the Palestinian refugee problem.

¶3. (C) That said, Al-Mubarak emphasized that Kuwait was committed to the stability of Lebanon and would make a "generous donation" at the event.

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